

Brierley Hill Urban District Council.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1919.



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# Annual Report

of the  
**Medical Officer of Health,**

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.



*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health, in its issue of instructions to the Council (Circular 66) as to the form and substance of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, points out the importance at this time of taking special steps to ascertain the general condition of the health of the population in your area, and of the various health services for which the Council is responsible under the Public Health Acts, Maternity and Child Welfare Acts, and other Statutes and Regulations through which the prevention of disease, the diminution of sickness, and the general physical welfare of the people are intended to be promoted.

**General Remarks.**

A review of the prevailing conditions is specially needed to form the basis for that careful and comprehensive scheme of health development generally which it is hoped may shortly follow in **every locality** upon the recent unification in the Ministry of Health of the various central functions in respect of all matters affecting the health of the people. This unification implies and cannot be effective without a corresponding co-ordination of local health activities.

The Circular also suggests that you should arrange for the Annual Report to be distributed as widely as possible, so as to engender popular interest in the subject and an enlightened public opinion. It is pointed out that an increase of public knowledge and interest in sanitary matters would tend to ensure that co-operation and confidence between the public and Health Authority which is essential to successful health administration.

The condition to be reported upon will be taken in the order directed by the Ministry of Health.

Population, Census, 1911...	...	...	...	12,294
Estiated population to midde of year 1919	...	...	...	12,913
Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	1,027			
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,725

Brierley Hill lies in a hilly track rising out of the valley of the river Stour. It occupies a prominent position and has a good natural fall from all sides, excepting the North-east. Its average highest level is 477 feet, and its average lowest level 397 feet. The inclination being mainly westerly the watershed distributes the rainfall by feeders into the river Stour, intercepted to a great extent by canals which form a horseshoe round the district. The district stands on the coal measures. The coal measures contain many beds of clay which, being impervious to rain, make the soil cold and damp. The subsoil water is found at about 35 feet. Owing to the working of the mines and clay pits very little natural land remains. The town has a good main street, running North-east and South-west. All its streets are paved. Owing to its elevated position it is well exposed to wind and sunshine.

The population is mainly industrial, with a considerable Social proportion of shopkeepers, professional men, and private residents. At present there are no open-air public places for recreation. An excellent site near the centre of the town has recently been presented by Messrs. Marsh and Baxter, Limited, and steps are being taken to lay this out as a public park and recreation ground. If labour and material are available the scheme will be carried out and completed during the present year.

The chief manufactures consist of steel and iron works, blast furnaces, fire-clay and brick works, collieries, glass works, galvanising works, encaustic tile works, and a large ham and bacon factory. In the galvanising, encaustic tile works, and glass polishing works the employees are liable to lead poisoning. Owing to improved conditions of working, cases of lead poisoning have almost ceased to exist. The other and more laborious occupations, e.g., iron workers, brick workers, and miners, do not appear to affect the health of the workers in any special degree. There is very little real poverty and a noticeable improvement in the habits and general well-being of the industrial population during recent years. The great obstacle to further improvement in this direction is the unsatisfactory housing conditions under which many of the workers have to live. A full account was given of the existing housing conditions in my report to the Housing Commissioner in October last. Further and more detailed information will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report (appended).

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statistics are calculated upon the returns of births and deaths and estimates of the population supplied by the Registrar-General for the year 1919. The number of births and deaths are those registered during the calendar year, and are corrected for inward and outward transfers. The birth rate and marriage rate population is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the birth and marriage rates. It consists, therefore, of the death rate or civilian population plus all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad.

The death-rate population excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. This is necessary for

the purposes of local death rates, because it has proved impossible to transfer the deaths of non-civilians to their areas of residence, or to deal in any other satisfactory way with the local mortality of this element of the population.

**Birth-Rate.** The number of persons born in the district during the year 1919 is 268—141 males and 127 females—257 were born legitimate and 11 illegitimate. On an estimated population of 12,913 the birth rate is 20.75 per thousand of the population, as against a birth rate of 23.1 for the year 1918. The average birth rate for the previous five years is 25.2.

**Death-rate.** The Registrar-General's estimate is 12,396 (civil population). The number of deaths registered is 171—82 males and 89 females. The death rate for the year 1919 is therefore 13.79 per thousand of the population, as against a death rate of 16.0 for the year 1918. The average of the preceding five years is 15.8.

**Infantile Mortality.** Twenty-three deaths were registered under 1 year of age. The mortality per thousand births is 85. For the year 1918 it was 104. The average of the preceding five years is 96.

**Zymotic Mortality.** Four deaths occurred from the seven principal zymotic diseases as follows:—Diphtheria 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 2. The death rate is 0.31 per thousand of the population, as against a death rate of 0.43 for the year 1918. The average of the past five years is 1.85.

**Other Notifiable Diseases.** The death rates per 1,000 of population are as follows:—

	Average		
	1919.	1918.	5 years.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1.21	... 1.13	... 0.70
Pneumonia ... ... ...	1.53	... 3.40	... 1.70
Influenza ... ... ...	0.72	... 2.53	... —

No deaths occurred from Malaria, Dysentery, or Trench fever.

**Ages at which death occurred (all causes)** For the guidance of the Council comparative death rates are set out in Table I. appended.

Under one years of age...	23	Sixty-five years and over 60	
1 year and under 5 years	16	Between 45 and 65 years	32
Between 5 and 15 years ...	7	Between 25 and 45 years	19
Between 15 and 25 years...	14		

The amount of Poor Law relief is £691 1s. 2d.

Poor-Law Relief.

With regard to hospital accommodation, there are two Hospital hospitals—one at Dudley—the Guest Hospital— $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Accommodation. the North-east; and the Corbett Hospital, 2 miles to South-west. Both institutions are largely used by the population of Brierley Hill.

With the exception of a few outlying houses, all properties within the area obtain their water supply from the South Staffordshire Water Company's mains. The source of supply for this district is from "Ashwood" and "Hinksford" pumping stations—5 miles to the South-west of Brierley Hill in the agricultural area. The supply is constant. There is little or no risk of surface or other contamination. There is no plumbo solvent action.

The analysis as supplied by the Secretary of the Water Company is as follows:—

Total Solids	...	...	...	...	...	28.8
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	2.64
Ammonia, Free	...	...	...	...	...	.0021
Ammonia, Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	...	.002
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	.342
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	...	.005

Hardness "Temporary"	9.4	Total 16.8
Hardness "Permanent"	7.4	

Surface water from roads and house premises is discharged into the canals at various points. The old system of sewers being used for this purpose. The foul sewage passes into the new sewerage system, which was completed in 1912. By an agreement with the adjoining Kingswinford Rural District Council the effluent is received into main intercepting sewers and delivered to that Council's sewage farm at Kinver, where it is treated by the broad irrigation process. The whole district is properly sewered and drained with the exception of two small areas, viz., Delph and the lower part of Level Street. The Delph area is subject to surface disturbances by mining operations. At the present time the drainage of this district appears to be impracticable. The Level Street area has some 26 cottages lying in a hollow a considerable depth below the level of the existing sewers.

Rivers and Streams.

**Closet Accommodation.**

The new sewerage became available in the autumn of 1911, since when and up to 1914 rapid progress was made in converting the existing conservancy system to that of water carriage. The advent of war brought about a marked slackening in this and other work of improvement, due in the first place to shortage of labour and materials, and in the second to the difficulty of getting the owners to embark upon expensive work of any kind. However, steady progress has been made, and up to the present time some 92 per cent. of the houses have been dealt with. (Vide Inspector's Report, Table I.)

**Scavenging.**

Up to June, 1917, this work was done by contract with varying success. It is now done departmentally under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances. The advantages of the latter system are unquestionable, both as regards efficiency and economical working. Complaints are rare. The ashpits and privies remaining are cleansed as required and the ashbins emptied weekly. Where conversions occur the owner is required to provide a sanitary ashbin. Fixed receptacles are discarded where possible. (Vide Inspector's Report, Table I.)

The most important defect in our system of scavenging is the fact that we have to make use of "tips." During the past year the Council has been enquiring into the various methods and the cost of providing a Destructor suitable to the necessities of the district. The use of "Tips" merely perpetuates and concentrates those evils which arise from the storage of refuse in the neighbourhood of dwellings. It also becomes a breeding place for flies and rats. None of the refuse deposited is used for manure or trade purposes.

**Sanitary Inspection of District and Schools**

See Inspector of Nuisances Report (appended).

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.—See Inspector's Report.

There are five Elementary Schools in the district. They are all in good sanitary condition and have the company's water supply laid on. The health of the children is in charge of the local School Medical Officer. All infectious cases and contacts are excluded. If an epidemic occurs, and the circumstances warrant it, the schools are closed, after notice given to the Education Authority.

## FOOD.

The milk supply is generally sufficient. There are 11 Cowkeepers and 17 Purveyors of milk within the district, but the supply comes mainly from outside farms. As to wholesomeness of the milk produced or imported, I have no reason to doubt its quality, but under the prevailing methods of production I should hesitate to say it is pure and wholesome until it had been Pasteurised or boiled. The administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders during recent years has had a decidedly good effect in improving the sanitary condition of these premises, more especially with regard to the Cowsheds. The Dairies are not so satisfactory, in that there is not in all cases a place specially constructed and set apart for storing and washing. No action has been taken with regard to tuberculous milk. (Vide Inspector's Report.)

These regulations are administered by the County Council.

Milk Supply

Milk and  
Cream Reg-  
ulations,  
1912-1917

The Council delegated their powers under this Order to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. During 1918 the Ladies' Voluntary Committee (out of their own funds) dealt with the necessitous cases reported to them by the Health Visitor. There were five applications. Public notice has been given of the Order and its application to "necessitous cases," but such cases are difficult to find owing to the higher wages now obtainable, by the class who would be expected to apply.

Milk  
(Mothers  
and Chil-  
dren) Order,  
1918.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No epidemic of Infectious Disease occurred during the year. The notifications of the seven principle Zymotic disease was 25, as follows:—Measles 7 cases, Scarlet Fever 6, Diphtheira 8, Erysipelas 4. Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free to all the local practitioners, and used in all the cases notified. No case of Eucephalitis Lethargica has been notified. All of the cases of scarlet fever were treated at their own homes. In no instance was there a second case in the same house, and no return cases were noted. No notifications were received of pneumonia, malaria, dysentery, or trench fever. I have no reason to doubt that the medical practitioners do not notify Pulmonary Tuberculosis as soon as the case is diagnosed. Table II. shows that it often comes late.

Prevalence  
and Control.

**Bacteriological Aids.** The County Council arrangements with Birmingham University has been extensively used for this purpose, especially with regard to Diphtheria and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. I have not got the exact figures.

**Influenza.** The epidemic of Influenza ceased at the close of the year 1918. In my Annual Report for that year I gave the particulars now required. With regard to the schools, the head teacher gives notice to me of any suspicious case. He also gets notice of any notified case, amongst the scholars, or at their homes.

**Small-Pox Regulations 1917.** Public notice was given calling attention to this Order, but no applications were received by the Medical Officer of Health for primary vaccination or re-vaccination.

**Anthrax and Rabies.** No cases have occurred within the district.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There is a welfare centre in the town, where the mothers with their babies attend twice weekly. The Health Visitor, two Ladies, and the Secretary of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attend on Tuesday afternoons, when there is an average of 35 babies. The Medical Officer, Health Visitor, and the same secretary attend the next day, for consultations, and treatment of minor ailments. Midwives are encouraged to send cases to the centre (this has not been very successful) for advice. There is no available maternity home. Provisional arrangements have been made with the local hospital to take in emergency maternity cases, antenatal and post-natal cases requiring special treatment. Advantage has been taken of this arrangement on several occasions.

Still-births and deaths of infants under five years of age are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

There is an excellent Ladies' Voluntary Committee, who deal with unmarried mothers, illegitimate and destitute children, but under this head there has been very little demand for assistance.

The school medical service makes use of the Centre for treatment of minor ailments, until such time as a school clinic is established, most likely on the same premises as the Welfare Centre.

PUERPERAL FEVER, OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM,  
AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF  
PARTURITION.

There has been no demand for work under this head during the year. The District Nurse attends to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. If an epidemic of measles occurred a special nurse would be engaged to devote her whole time to the cases. The few cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum we have had since compulsory notification, have been treated successfully, with no after ill effects.

Staff—Inspector of Nuisances, Surveyor, and Health Visitor.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There is an Isolation Hospital under the Joint Control of Sanitary Brierley Hill and the adjoining district of Quarry Bank. The Administration hospital was erected for the isolation of small-pox cases during the epidemic of 1901 and 1902. It has been used once since for small-pox cases. It is also used for all other infectious diseases. It consists of two wards of eight beds each. There is no resident staff. A caretaker and his wife reside on the premises. When necessary trained nurses are engaged. During the past year three cases of Diphtheria were admitted under a trained nurse.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases Act, 1890. All sections. Adoptive Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Acts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, II., III., V.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Act. Regulations.

Milk (Children and Mothers Order), 1918.

There are 27 Factories and 97 Workshops on the Register. Factories The outworkers number 38. Two Factories have been pro- and vided with proper W.C. latrines. With the exception of Workshops. three, all the Factories are now connected. Ambulance outfits are provided in all the Factories. At the Earl of Dudley's Works there is an Ambulance Station in charge of a trained nurse.

Whilst fully aware of the responsibility of putting forward any question involving capital expenditure at the present time, I think the Council should keep in view the following requirements outside the Housing question:

1. A Destructor.
2. A Cemetery.
3. Public Mortuary.
4. An Isolation Hospital with a proper Resident Staff.
5. A Maternity Home.
6. Public Baths.

If the four constituent Authorities of the Kingswinford area were to unite in furtherance of these objects, it would tend to ensure efficiency and economy.

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 24th, 1920.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

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TABLE I.  
Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.  
(*Provisional figures*). *Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purpose of this Table.*

BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.										RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		
	All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-Pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Varioux.	Diphtheria and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.			
18.5	13.8	10.0	0.00	0.10	0.30	0.07	0.13	0.13	0.47	9.59			89
..	13.8	0.0	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.14	0.45	12.24			93
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Pop'n exceeding 50,000)	19.0	13.8	10.0	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.14	0.14	0.45	12.24			93
148 Smaller Towns (Census Population 20,000—40,000)	18.3	12.6	10.0	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.39	8.67			90
London	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
Brierley Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			
	20.7	13.7	10.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	16.22			85
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			85

TABLE 2.

Giving the Number of Persons notified from January 1st, 1912, to December 31st, 1919, and the results. The position of the 44 which left the district is not known.

Date Year	Notifications.		Died	Left Distri't	At Usual Em- ploy- ment.	Living and Imp v'd Light work	Rec'd Sana- torium Benefit
	Males	Fema's					
1912	27	25	22	8	12	10	12
1913	31	20	11	13	15	12	10
1914	21	23	14	10	6	14	13
1915	12	12	8	4	4	8	5
1916	10	5	7	3	3	2	10
1917	19	16	12	3	7	13	13
1918	12	5	8	—	5	4	6
1919	12	7	5	3	6	5	5
Total ...	144	113	87	44	58	68	74

In the following Table it will be seen that in 55 cases (deaths under 6 months after notification) Institution Treatment would have done no good.

Date Year	Notifications.	Ages at Notification					Period within which death occurred after Notification.							Total.
		Under 5 yrs	Under 15 yrs	15 & 25 yrs	25 & 45 yrs	45 & 65 yrs	Under 1 mth	, 3 mths	, 6 mths	, 1 year	, 2 yrs.	, 3 yrs.	, 4 yrs.	
1912	52	1	5	5	7	4	4	4	8	3	1	2	22	
1913	51	1	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	11	
1914	44	1	1	3	5	4	4	1	6	1	1	1	14	
1915	24		2	4	2	2	2	3				1	8	
1916	15	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	1		7	
1917	35	2	3	5	2	2	1	5	1	3			12	
1918	17	1	2	5		2	1	4	1				8	
1919	19	3	2		2	2	1	1	1				5	
Total	257	4	10	23	34	16	15	13	27	15	10	3	4	87

# Annual Report

OF THE

## Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year 1919.



*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Brierley Hill Urban District Council.*

The year's work was not marked by extraordinary activity in any one direction; it rather developed into getting done such work as was possible. Having regard to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary Material and Labour, attention was mainly directed to the smaller and most essential work of repair which had accumulated with such surprising rapidity as a result of such shortage—Leaky and Defective Roofs, Spouting, Defective Drainage and W.C.'s, Plumbing Work, Cleansing and General Delapidations.

In addition to the general survey of the district early in Sanitary the year, special inspections were made of 145 properties, Inspection and these formed the subject of special reports to the Coun- of District. cil.

Informal notices were served in each case. For particulars as to notices served and results, see Tabulated Statement (2).

These comprise: Slaughter-houses, Milkshops, Dairies, Canal Boats, Workshops, Bakehouses. These are periodically visited, and any defect or breach of regulation is brought to the notice of the Council. There are no Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, Offensive Trades, or Underground Sleeping Rooms in the district.

Premises &  
Occupations  
which can be  
controlled  
by Bye-laws  
and Regula-  
tions.

**Milk Supply** For details as to Inspections, etc., see Table (2).

There are 11 Cowkeepers and 17 registered purveyors of milk in the district. With the exception of the supply obtained from the Cowkeepers above mentioned, the whole of the milk is imported; a large proportion is brought in from farms situate in the districts surrounding.

The bulk of the milk imported is dealt with by two Firms who have installed pasteurising plants; all the milk thus received is treated, and a good proportion is Homogenized and bottled. A number of the smaller vendors obtain their supplies from this source.

The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops are visited periodically, and the cattle examined from time to time.

(See Tabulated Statement.)

**Food Inspection.** All premises where foods are manufactured or prepared are in good sanitary condition. There are 11 Licensed Slaughter-houses under inspection, and frequent visits are made, usually during time of slaughter. The advantage of some form of co-operative slaughtering has been manifest during the last four years, when, owing to the pooling system, the local butchers have killed and dressed their meat at one slaughter-house—each one in turn. Inspection has thus been simplified, and the nuisance arising from slaughtering minimised. The majority of the Slaughter-houses are situate within the centre of the town, and it would be a desirable thing if some scheme could be devised whereby the whole of the slaughtering could be done at one central place.

Save for their close proximity to houses, the slaughter-houses are in good sanitary condition, and the bye-laws in relation thereto have been observed.

The following Carcasses and Articles of Food were surrendered during the year:

#### Surrendered and Condemned.

- 5 tins Corned Beef, weight 27 lbs.
- 12 tins Preserved Fruit.
- 6 boxes of Kippers, weight 32 lbs.
- 3 tins Salmon.

Sausages, weight  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.  
 125 lbs. Butter.  
 57 tins Condensed Milk.  
 35 lbs. Bacon.  
 12 tins Tomatoes.  
 3 Sheep Carcasses, weight 179 lbs.  
 3 Pig Carcasses, weight 503 lbs.  
 2 hind quarters Beef, weight 262 lbs.  
 Pork, weight 68 lbs.  
 2 fore quarters Beef, weight 300 lbs.  
 Offals, weight 2,005 lbs.  
 1 Beast Carcase, weight 560 lbs.  
 3 Boxes HERRINGS.  
 3 Boxes Cured HERRINGS.

There are 15 Bakehouses in use, all of which—with one exception—are in good sanitary condition. Bakehouses

Plans are prepared for the construction of a new Bakehouse to replace that above-mentioned.

For details of Inspections, etc., see General Summary Table (3).

## HOUSING (I).

Number of Houses, 2,725. Working-class Houses, i.e., Assessed at £12 and under, 2,301.

No new houses have been built during the year. A scheme for the erection of 90 houses, under the State-aided Housing Scheme, has been prepared and approved by the Ministry, and it is hoped these will be completed during the present year. The population at last census was 12,294, and the estimated population at the end of the year 13,150.

No appreciable change has taken place during the year, and having regard to the permanent nature of the new works established during the period of the war, no change is anticipated in the future. I should say that, given sufficient housing accommodation, the population would increase.

The extent of shortage of houses was fully dealt with in the report made to the Ministry in October last, and substantially the same conditions obtain to-day. The Urban Council has formulated an extensive programme for the erection of Houses, and, as before stated, efforts are being

made to complete the first portion of the scheme, 90 houses, this year.

## HOUSING (2).

The extent of overcrowding was also dealt with in the October Report, and save for a few of the worst cases, similar conditions prevail.

### Causes.

The causes are primarily due to shortage of Housing accommodation; and to the number of young people who contracted marriages during the war, and who are now compelled to occupy rooms in other houses; to the inherent lack of responsibility upon the part of a section of the community to provide adequate accommodation for their families; to the number of houses closed as unfit for Habitation, or demolished by mining operations; and to the failure of private enterprise during recent years to make good the shortage so occasioned.

### Measures taken or contemplated.

The removal of an overcrowded family to similar conditions in some other part of the town or district adjacent certainly does not appeal to one as a commonsense proposition, and I fear no real good will be effected in this direction until additional houses are provided.

In the meantime efforts are made to deal with the worst cases as they arise.

## HOUSING (3),

Details are given in General Summary Table.

The standard of higher rented houses and houses occupied by the better artisan class is good, but generally speaking the type of small house existing leaves much to be desired. The majority are old and need constant attention to keep them up to a reasonable standard of fitness. A considerable number are grouped upon small areas of land, the chief object of the then builder being to erect as many houses as possible upon the land available. This congestion was no doubt due in a large measure to the fact that practically the whole area of Brierley Hill has been subject to mining disturbance at some time, as its scarred and uneven surface and the number of existing houses out of plumb give ample evidence.

Many of these cottages were built back to back, and endeavours have been made in recent years to deal with them. A considerable number were reconstructed and made into through houses, but some 85 still remain to be dealt with.

Upon the eastern side of the town mining is still in active operation, and properties upon this area are suffering—and are still likely to suffer—in consequence.

The chief defects met with are perished brickwork, dampness (no damp course), inadequate provision for lighting, ventilation, food store, washhouses, and paving. Generally speaking, the houses are well provided as regards Closet accommodation, water supply, and drainage.

The year's work was devoted to essential works of repair and dilapidations, which were a natural aftermath of several years of enforced neglect.

The chief difficulty in dealing with dilapidations and structural alterations at the present time is still a shortage of labour and materials, together with a reluctance upon the part of owners to pay the high prices demanded for such repairs. Many owners have invested their savings in house property, and are unable to afford the outlay the necessary alterations would entail.

For notes on this subject see October Report.

**Unhealthy Areas.**

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

TABLE No. 1.

1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
<b>No. of Ashpits and Privies.</b>								
1416	1127	562	373	299	278	269	251	247
<b>No. of W.C.'s (including Works and Schools).</b>								
575	880	1532	1949	2084	2110	2135	2153	2177
<b>No. of Slop Closets.</b>								
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	18
<b>No. of Dry Ashpits.</b>								
134	249	386	385	375	371	370	368	368
<b>No. of Ashbins.</b>								
90	402	834	1356	1441	1482	1501	1517	1545
<b>No. of Privies Demolished.</b>								
56	289	565	189	74	23	9	8	15

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING, &amp;c., ACT, 1909.

TABLE 2.

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
No. of Houses Certified Sect. 17 (2).									
	87	22	84	103	67	8	2	13	3

  

No. of Houses repaired voluntarily.	60	224	216	110	28	4	29	31	27
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## NOTICES SERVED.

## Sect. 17 (2).

41	22	84	103	67	8	2	13	3
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## Sect. 17 (4).

15	8	12	24	11	0	0	1	1
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## Sect. 18 (1).

18	4	9	7	10	0	0	1	1
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## Sect. 18 (2).

13	4	9	7	10	0	0	0	1
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## Demolished.

6	4	9	6	13	0	0	0	1
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## NOTICES SERVED (INFORMAL).

147	218	198	213	95	12	31	44	30
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## GENERAL SUMMARY OF SANITARY OPERATIONS.

TABLE 3.

## Houses.

Number of Houses repaired after informal notice .....	27
,, Inspections made .....	408
,, Defects found .....	357
,, Defects remedied .....	298
,, Windows repaired and made to open .....	15
,, Food pantries provided or ventilated .....	22
,, Roofs repaired .....	198

„	Spouting repaired .....	107
„	Wash-houses repaired, or re-built .....	24
„	Damp courses provided .....	7
„	Structural defects, dangerous chimneys, &c. ....	57
„	Earthenware sinks provided .....	26
„	New paving provided or repaired .....	14
„	Houses cleansed and limewashed after infectious disease .....	12
„	Houses cleansed after informal notice .....	34
„	Houses overcrowded and abated .....	11
„	Wet cellars filled in .....	3
„	Bedroom floors repaired .....	27
„	Stairs repaired .....	19

**House Drainage and W.C's.**

„	Houses provided with new drainage and W.C.'s .....	34
„	Factories provided with new drainage.....	3
„	Tests applied to old drains .....	29
„	Choked drains opened and flushed .....	115
„	Defective W.C.'s and drainage repaired... .	89
„	Cesspools demolished .....	15
„	Inspections made .....	358

**House Refuse Removal.**

„	Ashbins cleansed weekly .....	1545
„	Ashpits and privies cleansed .....	1116
„	Dry ashpits cleansed .....	1204
„	Ashpits with privies demolished .....	15
„	Dry ashpits demolished .....	2
„	Ashpits provided .....	28
„	Inspections made .....	287

**Bakehouses.**

„	Bakehouses in district .....	15
„	Inspections made .....	42
„	Defects noted .....	3
„	Defects remedied .....	2

**Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

„	Cowsheds under inspection .....	15
„	Milkshops and dairies under inspection .....	28
„	Registered purveyors (resident) .....	17
„	Registered purveyors (non-resident) .....	9
„	Inspections made .....	115
„	Defects noted and remedied .....	5

**Slaughterhouses.**

„	Licensed slaughter-houses .....	11
„	Visits of inspection .....	294
„	Defects found and remedied .....	3
„	Seizures or surrenders of unsound food ...	34
„	Magistrates' orders condemning .....	3
„	Legal proceedings .....	1

**Factories and Workshops.**

„	Workshops registered .....	97
„	Inspections made .....	36
„	Defects found and remedied .....	5
„	Outworkers .....	38
„	Lists sent to other Authorities .....	7

**Canal Boats.**

„	Canal Boats upon register .....	74
„	Inspections made .....	27
„	Infringements of regulations .....	10
„	Boats registered during the year .....	1

**Infectious Disease.**

„	Houses disinfected .....	38
„	Lots of clothing and bedding disinfected...	15
„	Schools disinfected .....	2
„	Library books destroyed .....	1
„	Special inspections .....	34

**Notices Served—Housing.**

	Preliminary.	Statutory.
Section 17 (2) .....	130	3
,, 17 (4) .....	1	1
,, 18 (1) .....	1	1
,, 18 (2) .....	0	1

**Public Health Act, 1875.**

,, 36 .....	49	29
,, 41 .....	0	1
,, 47 .....	23	0
,, 49 .....	38	24
,, 91 .....	315	98

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Orders and Regulations .....	5	5
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**Slaughterhouses.**

Bye-laws .....	3	0
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**Canal Boats.**

Orders and Regulations .....	10	0
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**Workshops.**

Orders and Regulations .....	5	0
Letters to Owners .....	349	0

JOHN YORKE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

March 24th, 1920.

